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Little Red Herrings -- PASCAL

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Lost in Austin from page 87

City I put a Post-It Note on the front saying "Free," but on the Austin book, I inserted an extra release form as a book mark.

Once a book is released, I go back to the web site and give details about the release including the terminal and gate number. This part of the process is surprisingly detailed and fun to complete.

A few years back, when I was living in Klamath Falls, Oregon, I was blessed with a wonderful used book store run by **Aaron Ashurst**. He has a wonderful selection and seems to add desirable new stock every week. I would buy something every time I visited **Aaron**, not just to help keep him in business but to add to my stock of inexpensive books that I wanted to read one day and books that I had read twenty to forty years ago and wanted to re-visit. They were mainly paperback books that I intended to pass on to my children when I had finished with them. I would now have to pay more to mail the books

back to Oregon than they cost in the first place. Happily, I have found another way to share some of my favorite books.

I have been releasing **Updike** titles simply because I am re-reading him at the moment. He was important to me when I was in the Army. The first thing I read by him was *Rabbit, Run* (finished May 7, 1963) I don't remember how I discovered it, probably at the **Ft. Dix Library** or perhaps it was lent me by one of the soldiers from New York City, there for their **National Guard** six month's of active duty. On June 24, I finished *The Centaur* (my favorite **Updike** book), and *The Poorhouse Fair* on August 16 at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

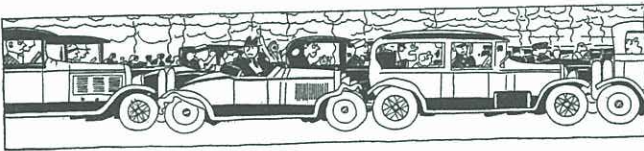
I never resented the Six-monthers. They were mostly college graduates with good jobs in the city, so why would they want to wait and get drafted or volunteer when they could fulfill their military obligation a bus ride to where they lived. Instead of resenting them, I admired them and learned from them and some guy bunking near me who had been drafted but couldn't even finish radio school before faking insanity and getting kicked out of the Army. He just might have been crazy, as in *Catch-22*, but he had read more than I had, at least of the modern authors and it was he who introduced me to **Saul**

Bellow, J. D. Salinger, and Philip Roth. According to **Noel**, *The Adventures of Augie March* was the great American novel.

Edward Albee was quite the rage in New York City at the time so I read most of his plays including *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, thanks to one of the National Guardsmen who actually lent me his hardbound copy.

As I was writing this and reminiscing about 1963, I realized that from 1963 through 1965, as a private first class (PFC) in the Army, I read some of my favorite books and learned to appreciate certain authors who remain good friends even if I never got to meet any of them. I realized, too, that I want to re-read the rest of **Updike** from that era along with **Saul Bellow, Bernard Malamud, J.D. Salinger**, and one volume by **James Agee**, *The Letters of James Agee to Father Flye*. They are ideal candidates for release into the wild under the **Book Crossing** banner. Yes, once released, **Book Crossing** members consider the books to be "in the wild."

I encourage you to visit the **Book Crossing** Website and decide for yourself if you want to participate. If you do, tell them that I (**Goldenoski**) sent you. I don't remember what I get for recruiting new members but it would be honor enough just to know that people I know are out there releasing good things to read. 🍄



Little Red Herrings — PASCAL

by **Mark Y. Herring** (Dean of Library Services, Dacus Library, Winthrop University) <herringm@winthrop.edu>

PASCAL. It has nothing to do with the famous French philosopher. It has nothing to do with a computer language. But in terms of academic libraries in South Carolina, it may be more important than either.

Surely by now you've heard of it? **Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries** is the brainchild of South Carolina academic librarians; and if the infant survives, it will become the braintrust of South Carolina's public and private academic libraries resource sharing collaborative. For **PASCAL** has to do with technology on the one hand and a philosophy of broad-based library service on the other.

Sharing is, of course, not new to South Carolina academic librarians. We've been sharing for decades now. We have to. It's the nature of library services to do that sort of thing. We borrow from each other because budgets are too tight and needs are so great. Decades ago South Carolina academic librarians began sharing resources. And expertise. And just about anything else you can think of, whether nailed down or not. Two groups, the **Library Directors' Forum** (consisting largely of academic librarians at publicly supported institutions) and the **Library Directors Council** (consisting of members of the **South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities**), worked together for years but asymptotically; always approaching, but never quite reaching, a full-service joint venture. Then something novel occurred.

The two groups got together and made sharing our paramount concern. Academic directors and deans from both the public and private aisles of South Carolina's university and college libraries put their heads together and, like **Athena** from the head of **Zeus, PASCAL** was born. Patterned after such services in other states' Virginia's **VIVA**, Georgia's **Galileo**, Missouri's **MOBIUS** and Kentucky's **KYVL** — **PASCAL** will eventually become South Carolina's statewide consortium. Pressing its three major programs — Consortial Purchasing (via either individual initiatives or under umbrella-like operations such as **DISCUS-Academic**), Universal Borrowing and Digitization — **PASCAL** is rapidly becoming a veritable universe of services and will eventually become the statewide consortia.

Statewide funding is critical in order for **PASCAL** to become as fully viable as statewide consortia in other states. For example, Virginia's **VIVA** recently reported a cost avoidance of 103 million (see: <http://www.viva.lib.va.us/viva/outreach/releases/covits20031002.html>). Indeed, if funding from South Carolina's educational lottery can be secured, South Carolina's academic libraries would see their budget buying power increase 4 to 10 times! It only makes sense. Instead of dozens of South Carolina academic libraries

(potentially 54 in all) buying the same half dozen databases, why not a statewide consortium buy one for all?

By the time you read these words, we'll know if **PASCAL** made it through the budget process. The **Senate Finance Committee** has already approved lottery dollars for **PASCAL**, and we loudly applaud its foresight. Now it moves to the larger legislature. This is a critical time for **PASCAL**. We look to the larger legislature to see this important step for what it is: information access for all. Legislatures in other states have seen the merit of such cooperatives and funded them to the benefit of all their constituencies. Those constituencies have not been disappointed, and neither have their representatives. How could they be with millions in cost-avoidance, access to information statewide and greater learning for all? We know Palmetto legislators know a good thing when they see it. Surely they will agree with us that this is a good thing to do for this great state and its citizens. And doing it from the educational lottery funds only makes sense!

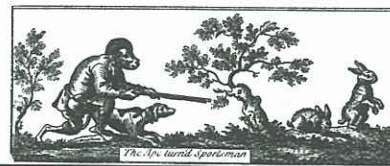
Meanwhile, are academic librarians just waiting around for someone else to act? Heaven's no. In fact, the state's academic li-

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Bet You Missed It

Press Clippings — In the News — Carefully Selected by Your Crack Staff of News Sleuths



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Column Editor's Note: Hey, are you reading this? Your esteemed column editor would like to know what you think! Zip off a quick email to <pmrose@buffalo.edu>. Does BYMI fill your needs? Do you have any suggestions for changes? I'm listening! — PR

CHEEK TO SMITH

by **Pamela M. Rose** (University at Buffalo)

Was **Joseph Smith**, the founding father of the Latter-Day Saints (Mormons), one of your ancestors? Now you can find out at the **Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation**. The first version of a free database combining family records with genetic information will aid researchers who can have their DNA analyzed by submitting a few cheek cells, and then look for a match. If successful, clients will be given the names and locations of people with similar DNA born before 1900 (to protect the privacy of the donors). The extensiveness of the repository will also prove useful to geneticists tracking down disease genes.

See — "Mormon Genealogy Goes High Tech" in *Random Samples* edited by **Constance Holden**, *Science*, March 12, 2004, p.1608.

CREATIONIST BOOK CORRECTION

by **Pamela M. Rose** (University at Buffalo)

Science mis-reported on this story which was summarized in the February issue of *ATG*. The Public Information Manager of the American Geophysical Union, **Harvey Leifert**, sent the following clarification:

"*Science* magazine misstated the position of the scientific society presidents regarding the creationist Grand Canyon book. (AGU is one of the seven societies.) We did not seek to censor the book, nor did we ask 'that sales be stopped'... The letter, dated last December 16, says that the book, 'if it remains available in Grand Canyon bookstores,' should be shelved with other nonsense books, as 'we must clearly distinguish religious tenets from scientific knowledge.'"

The controversial book, *The Grand Canyon: A Different View*, is a collection of creationist essays. *Science* has agreed to publish a correction as well.

See — The full text of the letter at http://www.agu.org/sci_soc/policy/grandcanyon.pdf.

VISA VETO

by **Pamela M. Rose** (University at Buffalo)

A sizeable number of international students are declining to even apply for graduate study in the U.S. because of the specter of long delays and uncertainties in obtaining a visa. A survey (www.nafsa.org/content/PublicPolicy/FortheMedia/appssurveyresults.pdf) found 47% fewer graduate applications for fall 2004.

See — "Foreign Graduate Student Applications Drop" by **Yudhijit Bhattacharjee**, *Science*, March 5, 2004, p.1453.

SCIENTIFIC SAVVY

by **Pamela M. Rose** (University at Buffalo)

How does a country help establish themselves as a scientific power? The answer may be to tackle the expensive prospect of starting their own internationally recognized scientific journal. Growing concern over the health of the country's current scientific publications and the impressive number of Japanese researchers being published in other prestigious journals was discussed at a symposium "Strengthening Global Information Dissemination Capabilities" held in Tokyo on February 27th of this year. One researcher has suggested such a new endeavor should be electronic to make the material more accessible.

See — "Japan Ponders Starting a Global Journal" by **Dennis Normile**, *Science*, March 12, 2004, p.1599.

FREE ISN'T FAR ENOUGH

by **Pamela M. Rose** (University at Buffalo)

The **Principles for Free Access to Science** (www.dcpinciples.org), a statement issued by a U.S. coalition of 48 nonprofit scientific societies in response to public pressure, signifies agreement to make information as free as possible. Some "open access" advocates still say the statement doesn't go far enough, and others say it sidesteps key issues, such as whether scientists can retain ownership of their papers.

See — "Scientific Societies Lay Out 'Free Access' Principles" by **David Malakoff**, *Science*, March 26, 2004, p.1959.

Little Red Herrings

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barries have already pooled their exiguous funds to get **PASCAL** infrastructure built. Our efforts have demonstrated only too clearly, in all three of **PASCAL**'s major program offerings, that South Carolina's academic librarians think this consortium *very worthwhile*. But don't take my word for it. See for yourself:

— **EBSCO buyer's club deal for 4 databases and 28 participants. Cost-avoidance: \$100,000;**

• **ScienceDirect with 8 participants and about \$1.1million spent;**

- **Institute of Physics Archives with full, consortia-wide participation;**
- **Joint, statewide borrowing with a universal delivery to begin soon;**
- **Digital statewide virtual library of images.**

Imagine what **PASCAL** could do with statewide funding along the lines of what other consortia in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia and Kentucky receive! South Carolina academic libraries are already stepping up to the plate pledging, in these troublous economic times, portions of their scant materials budget to get **PASCAL** moving. That's how important it is to us. To learn more about **PASCAL** visit its website at <http://pascal.tcl.sc.edu/>.

Academic librarians understand that this

is a great undertaking, but we also understand that South Carolina is a great state. Great states are known for their support of education. We are sympathetic to those who complain about the cost of learning. We agree that education is a costly venture that, rightly, should never really end.

We argue that while education *is* a costly endeavor, its opposite, ignorance, is more costly still. Ignorance impoverishes the mind while making the eyes blind. This helps to explain why states that eschew educational funding become increasingly poor with each passing year. Many of those same states watch their decline in horror but are never able to see or even understand why it occurs. 